(ग) पुरानी शिक्षा नीति मे, जो मार्च, 1986 मे अपनायी गयी थी, आमूल चूल परिवर्तन करने के क्या कारण हैं ?

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री साथ में मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में शिक्षा विभाग में राज्य मंत्री का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (प्रो० एम० जी० के० मेनन) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा ऐसी कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया गया है।

Protection of rare medicinal plants and their cultivation in natural habitat

@*214-A. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the rare medicinal plants in the country are being destroyed by wanton destruction of flora and fauna by the ignorant people;

(b) whether thefts of such plants by foreigners have come to the notice of Government;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to protect these plants from deslruction and thefts; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to cultivate the rare medicinal plants in their natural habitat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MENEKA GANDHI); (a) No specific studies have been undertaken on the rate of extinction of medicinal plants due to destruction of flora and fauna.

(b) 8 cases of attempted smuggling of consignment of medicinal plants detected in Calcutta, in the last one year, have come to the notice of the Government.

@ Prevfously Starred Question **195** transferred from the 26th March, 1990.

(c) and (d) The following steps have been taken to preserve endangered medicinal plants;—

(i) Trade and commerce in endangered species of flora are regulated under Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

(ii) Some rare plants of medicinal importance have been cultivated in the Indian Botanical Garden and experimental gardens located at different parts of the country.

(iii) A scheme of "Captive Breeding of Endangered Plant Species" is being implemented by Botanical Survey of India.

(iv) Threatened species of plants are protected in Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks etc, as a part of conservation of natural ecosystem.

(v) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Cultivation of Minor Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants is being implemented under Wasteland Development Programme.

Expansion of educational opportunities in the rural areas

*215. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE;

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government propose to expand educational opportunities in the rural areas and start courses relevant to enable students and the rural youth to understand issues like land and water use, land reform laws, environmental preservation and general health; and

(b)' if so, the details thereof and by when the above proposal would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL